

CONTACT

The monthly magazine of

Groby

United Reformed Church



October 2023

A graphic for a birthday celebration. The words "Happy Birthday" are written in a stylized, orange, cursive font. The word "Happy" is smaller and positioned to the left of "Birthday". The text is surrounded by several five-pointed stars in blue and green colors, scattered around the letters.

Happy Birthday

Two birthdays this month

Alex Down; Keziah Euden

Happy Birthday

May the Good Lord Bless You

Sue Lawrence-Brooks

“Churches are not museums that display perfect people. They are hospitals where the wounded, hurt, injured and broken find healing.”

Nicky Gumbal

Author of the Alpha Course

Our Church website can be found at <https://grobyurc.com/>

Our Facebook page is at <https://www.facebook.com/grobyurc>

A link to recordings of our services can be found on both our church Website (click on the ‘worship’ Tab at the top) and on our Facebook page.

WELCOME FROM MARY CHURCH ELDER.



You sometimes hear people say ‘it takes a village to raise a child’, not meaning the location or size of a place, but the local community who provide education, example, care and inspiration.

This was certainly true for my children as they were growing up, both here in Groby and in Luton. I think back with thanks to the many people who played a part in their development. Play group teachers, Brownie, Guide and Cub leaders, Y Church leaders and the amazing teams that took them off to Bonsall or Bala every year, to name just a few.

In my experience it seems to be a similar process for raising a Christian, many people play a part, whether it’s at the beginning, witnessing to the ‘not yet believer’ or later in the journey when encouragement and discipleship are needed.

In Hebrews 12.1 the writer talks about the ‘great cloud of witnesses’ who have gone before us and been faithful. I think back gratefully to those who witnessed to me when I was an extremely sceptical non believer. For the most part they will have no idea that their words made any difference. For example the teacher who invited our whole class of 18 year olds to his Church. We went along out of curiosity, but there was no instant conversion or even enough interest for a second visit. He would never have known that this experience was an important stepping stone on my journey to faith. Likewise the lady who I met at some random meeting in 1980. I have no recollection of what the meeting was about, but she recruited me as a Christian Aid collector!

I wasn't a Christian, or even a Church goer, virtually a stranger but she took a chance and asked me to help. Another step on my way to faith.

I thank God for these people, and others, for their faithfulness and gentle witness. Thinking about them makes me reflect on the many ways we can be witnesses and that we should not be discouraged if we don't see immediate results. We may plant a seed that takes time to grow and flourish, and it may be other Christians who are there to nurture and sustain. Everything is in God's hands and his timing applies.

I'm sure we will all remember certain individuals who have helped us on our Christian journey. Let us take time to thank God for them and to ask for His grace, that by the power of His Holy Spirit, we too step up and play our part in the 'great cloud of witnesses'. Pray that He will use us to encourage others and that we are open to the opportunities that He gives us to be witnesses. Let us sow the seeds and have faith that there will be a harvest.

In the coming weeks opportunities to witness include Tasters and Alpha to name just two. It would also be a great encouragement to everyone to see a good turn out at our Church meeting on 28th September when we have so much to discuss about our Church life.

'Let us run with determination the race that lies before us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. ' Hebrews 12. 1-2.

God bless,
Mary

Would you Adam and Eve it? How one couple were so inspired to care for creation they changed their names...



When checking out Tear Times Autumn issue, one article about a couple from Zambakro, Ivory Coast seemed to spring off the pages and we thought it was worth sharing in Contact.

It's not just their names that have changed, the couple have found new purpose in life. They now have a

pineapple farm and are currently making bricks to build their own house. They believe that **Tearfund's** vision for local churches (CCT) could spread across the country and totally transform Ivory Coast.

Being fruitful: 'I was serving God but I didn't know I belonged to God. I thought if I gave myself to Him, I should also be responsible for taking care of his creation.' **Marc from Ivory Coast** didn't want to just alter his behaviour, actions and activities, he was so inspired by the CCT* Bible studies, about caring for God's creation he wanted to change his name. 'I am now **Adam** and realise God has given me all of creation, so, like Adam and Eve, we are responsible for taking care of everything around us.'

The Bible studies also inspired Marc's wife **Eudoxie**, who chose to change her name too. 'I am happy to be called **Eve** because I'm created by God,' she says. Thank you for your prayer and support.



*Tearfund's **Church and Community Transformation Training**.



SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING AND READINGS FOR OCTOBER

- | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------------|
| Oct. 1st | Matt chapter 4:18-25
'Calling and Healing' | Tom Limb |
| Oct. 8th | Harvest service
This service will include
Communion. | Paul |
| Oct. 15th | Overview of Matthew chapters
5, 6 and 7 | Richard Lindop |
| Oct. 22nd | Matt chapter 5:1-16
'Being blessed and | Stephen Burrage |
| Oct. 29th | Matt chapter 5:17-48
'Jesus' teachings' | Paul |

Harvest Service - October 8th.

Are you up for a challenge?

Paul will be leading our service with a theme of harvest on October 8th, being thankful to our Lord for all His goodness to us.

It may well contain a bit of a challenge!

It will certainly include Communion and will be followed by a Bring & Share Fellowship lunch. Look out for the sign up list at the back of the church!



October's Helping Hands

	Elder	Music	Media	Welcome	Coffee
Oct	(Kathy)	(Tim)	(Tim)	(Joy)	(Joy)
1st	Rachel	Helen	Tim	Ruth & Roger	Ruth & Roger
8th	Phil	Debbie	Mark	Joy & Peter	Kathy & Barry
15th	Kathy	David	Dave	Sue & Mike	Peter R & Margaret
22nd	Mary	Sue	Barry	Barbs & Anita	Joy & Cheryl
29th	Sue	David	Chris	Elaine & John	Hilary & Dave

“The Clean Team!”

(Kathy Du Boulay)



Sunday Flowers

(Barbara Conlon)

Oct. 1st: Ruth & Roger

Oct. 9th: Ann Tombs

Oct. 15th: Barbara Conlon

Oct. 22nd: Hilary & Dave

Oct. 29th: Susie Flude

Week Beginning

Oct. 2nd: Our Chores

Oct. 9th: Linda & Tim

Oct. 16th: Our Chores

Oct. 23rd: Sue LB & Sue A

Oct. 30th: Our Chores



I IS FOR INVESTMENTS... and we have reached the letter I in our 'Lifestyle' alphabet journey.

In the last few months we have been able to suggest actions we could take to make our world a better place, and we hope you have found these ideas useful and practical.



Reading through the chapter on 'Investments' however, it became clear to us that assets and investments are private and personal and not the easiest subject to understand or talk about.

Having said that, we believe as Christians our assets need to be **part of our worship to God.**

Recently, at morning worship we sang a golden oldie hymn written by Francis Havergal:

*Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.*

In other words, each of us needs to prayerfully work this process out with God, and by doing so, it could be a blessing for us and for mankind.

Ruth Valerio's 'Lifestyle' book contains some sound information, so please let the **Voice 4 Justice** team know if you would like to read the short chapter on investments.



CHURCH GIVING

Paul recently preached a sermon on 'giving' and reported that personal church giving (not specifically given for maintenance or mission) has decreased year on year since 2019. He challenged each of us to examine our giving of money and time, before God, and to determine if it is appropriate compared to all the riches that God has provided for us.

I do know, as church treasurer, that some members/attenders are very generous in their personal giving, whilst others may not have increased their giving in a number of years. The church is very grateful to receive all donations large or small and we would like to thank all of you that give of your time and money to the effective running of the church and to the work of God. I am, however, also aware of the recent cost of living rises and how this impacts families, but we also need to recognise that church bills have also increased, especially utility bills.

Personal church giving can be by bank standing order, cash or cheque in envelopes or cash/cheque on an offertory plate. Gift aid can be claimed via tax payers who have authorised it on a form that I can provide. By far the easiest method to administer, for both the giver and the treasurer, is by bank standing order. If you wish to give by this method, I provide Groby URC's bank details below:

Account name: Groby United Reformed Church

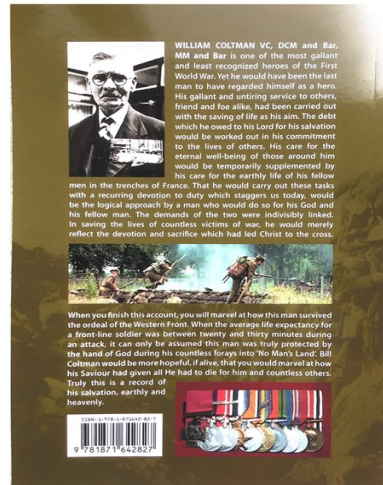
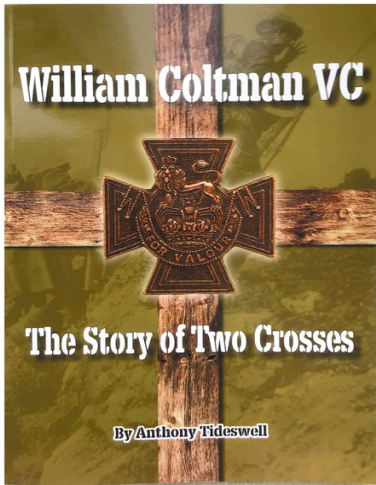
Sort code: 20-49-11

Account number: 80434604

I actively encourage all of you that can gift aid, to please do so, as we can claim back an extra 25% of you offering from HMRC. This year's claim amounted to over £7,000, so it is certainly worth doing it. Please do actively consider your response and thank you.

Phil Holmes. Groby URC church treasurer.

Recommended Reads



At our recent Men's Breakfast we heard about the remarkable true story of William Coltman VC, one of the most highly decorated non-commissioned officers of the First World War. Living by the word of God, this humble man chose not to take up arms against other men, but to become a stretcher bearer. God presided over his fate each day and allowed him under the most extreme of conditions to save many lives at a time when the average life expectancy at the front during an attack was only 20-30 minutes. William repeatedly put himself in mortal danger and received amongst other awards, the Victoria Cross - "For Valour". In saving the lives of many men William would reflect the selfless devotion and sacrifice that led Christ to the Cross for us.

If you would like to know more then why not read this story for yourself? A copy of William Coltman VC - The Story of Two Crosses by Anthony Tideswell is available to borrow from me.

Trevor Pringle

Groby URC Prayer Sheet – October 2023

Verse: “I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.” Psalms 17:6



Welcome to our church prayer sheet for October.

Following conversations with various members of our congregation it was decided that moving forward these would be included within Contact, this means that you have everything in one place. If you receive a paper copy of Contact then you should be able to pull the prayer sheet out if you prefer to have it as a separate sheet.

We hope that everyone will find this new format useful in guiding their prayers.

This month we are encouraging prayers for the Alpha course which kicked off at the end of September, the start of the new school term and for the flooding in Libya. However, there are lots of other ideas for prayer throughout Contact so please don't feel limited by what's included in this section!

We would love to encourage as many people as possible to contribute to the prayer sheet, so if you have any topics you would like to get people praying for then please get in touch with Rachel Edwards to get them included in future sheets.

Praying for the Alpha Course

For the first time for quite a few years, the two Groby Churches are joining, this time together with the two Ratby Churches, in offering an *Alpha* course. This is being held in the URC on Monday evenings from 18th September.

Alpha is a long-established course that introduces the participants to the beliefs of the Christian faith. Each evening comprises a meal together, watching a DVD and then discussing that in small groups.

God has blessed it extensively in many countries of the World to bring innumerable people to know Christ.

Please pray:

- For all the guests who are attending our *Alpha* course, that every one will be open to listen to the views of others and recognise the truth of Christian claims.
- That every guest will be touched by God and draw closer to Him.
- For the Day Away on 4th November.
- For the group facilitators, for sensitivity to allow the discussions to flow and wisdom to know when to intervene.
- For the cooks from all four Churches who will make a major contribution by providing the dinners, at which relationships and friendships will be formed, facilitating later open discussions.
- For the four Churches and their clergy to continue to work together effectively for the Kingdom, to present a united Christian front in both villages.
- For the guests when the course has finished in late November, that they will find spiritual homes.

Prayers for Libya

As you will have heard the Derna area of Libya has been hit by a catastrophic flood, at the time of writing this a lot of details are still becoming clear, but it would appear that thousands of people have lost their lives and this number is expected to continue to rise with tens of thousands of people still missing.

As with all disasters of this nature it is easy to feel overwhelmed & left wondering what we can do to help, it is easy to forget that prayer is the most powerful tool that we have:

Pray for the emergency response.

- Lift up first-responders and pray for energy and strength as they work around the clock to save lives.
- Pray for clear roads and bridges, so that emergency services and supplies can quickly reach those in need.
- Pray that those who are still missing will be found safe.
- Hospitals in the areas affected are overflowing. In Libya, many hospitals have not been rebuilt since they were destroyed in the conflict there. Pray for resilience for health workers as they respond; pray for capacity to treat people who are injured and for resources – medicine, equipment and hospital beds – to be readily available.

Pray for people affected by the earthquake.

- Pray for comfort for those who have lost their loved ones and healing for people who are injured. Ask God to draw near to them in this time of grief and uncertainty.

- Pray for provision of safe shelter, food and clean water and warmth for people who have lost their belongings, homes and livelihoods. Ask God to give them courage and strength to face these new challenges.
- Pray that vulnerable people – such as people with disabilities, orphans and pregnant and nursing mothers – will be protected and that no one will have to suffer alone.
- Pray for freedom from anxiety and fear for people who are feeling distressed – particularly those already in fragile situations throughout the region.



Praying for the start of the new school term

- Please remember our children as they return to school after the long summer holidays, with new classes, teachers and possible new friendships.
- Pray for our teachers, that they will feel re-energised and ready to face a new term.
- As the new term begins in schools, so also will our toddler and youth groups re-start. Pray for success, good attendance with good volunteer support for Noah's Ark, CATCH and Rock Solid.



SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IN CHURCH

A workshop focussing on how we can welcome, support and disciple those who struggle with their mental health in our church and communities

How can we recognise when someone is struggling?

What does The Bible say about mental health?

What is the best way to help?

How can our church be a place where people feel cared for?

<https://encouragementmentalhealth.org>

Opportunity for all to attend this course, which will run at Christ Church, (Barbara Road, LE3 2EB) on Saturday, 14th October. It will begin at 9.30 am and finish approximately 2.30 pm - 3 pm. Tea / Coffee will be provided by Christ Church but please remember to bring your own lunch.

So that there is an idea of numbers, please let Paul know if you would like to go via email, or the sign up sheet Paul has placed at the back of the church.

This is open to all church folk.

Holiday Club 2023 - a look back at the Kingdom of Flipperty Flop

As the summer holidays due to a close over 50 children joined us to explore the Kingdom of Flipperty Flop.



The children were introduced to the idea that a Kingdom where Jesus was the King would be one where everyone was welcome; where serving was more important than being served; where trust in Jesus replaces worry about the future and giving is better than getting.

At least 25 children came from Groby

15 from Ratby

9 from surrounding villages

The holiday club was held in both the Ratby Church rooms and Ratby Church, with our wonderful stewards guiding us across the road.



Many thanks to the Open the Book strolling players who retold four different Bible stories. They were very popular. Thank you so much.

For some children singing was the favourite activity.



The game “PIE or No PIE”, where leaders and young leaders tried to find which box holds a toffee crisp as oppose to a custard pie, proved very popular though probably not by the person who found a pie in their box!

One of the reasons to use Ratby Rooms was because of the wonderful outdoor space which the children made good use of.



Just a message to say thank you to everyone involved in the holiday club. My boys really enjoyed the activities. Thank you so much,

He was really anxious about coming on Monday, so we only planned for one day but he loved it so much he came back for the second day

Thanks to all involved. Ruth Scott

Pinkies up Ladies for



Afternoon Tea & Talk

A lovely afternoon tea with sandwiches, scones and homemade cakes'. Elegantly served on China plates, cups and saucers, and by our very smart waiter service. Soft music playing until we were later inspired by the talk given by Anji Barker about her work in Winson Greet, Birmingham.

Thank you to all who made this event happen.







At the Opera

We have a grand title for Groby Sings' new season which features songs from *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Miserables* and various other numbers that we know will appeal to singers of all ages. Our first rehearsals of the season have been very successful, with the selection of songs proving very popular, and we were delighted to welcome several new singers as well as some pre-Covid returners. Our Musical Director, Simon, was beaming throughout the first Wednesday's rehearsals so we know we've begun the season on the right note(s)! We have plenty of space at the Groby Club for new people so we'd like to invite anyone and everyone who likes to sing (even if you think you can't!) to come and join us. We would especially welcome new young singers (from age 7) who would like to try something different so please encourage them to come along to Groby Sings Youth and Children's Choir for just an hour after school on Wednesdays.

We have an update about Groby Sings' nomination for the Community Group category of the **BBC Radio Leicester Make a Difference Awards** from Jane Cox, a founding member of Groby Sings, who attended the presentation of the awards on Sunday 3rd September:

We were one of the 32 shortlisted individuals or groups in the local area chosen by the BBC Radio Leicester judges from all the nominations for the 8 Make a Difference Awards. Simon, Cliff (another founding member) and I were honoured to represent the choir and receive our trophy on their behalf. We were treated to a tasty meal and a performance by local band 'Gazelle'.

It was wonderful to celebrate all the kindness shown to our friends and neighbours by ordinary people in this area who 'go the extra mile'.

Groby Sings is a true community choir and has members from a wide area, not just Groby. As well as singing, we have chance to socialise and chat at rehearsals when we break for tea, coffee (or something stronger from the bar!) and, of course, cake. Come and join us!

WHERE? THE GROBY CLUB, Leicester Road, Groby, Leicester LE6 0DJ, which has ramps and disabled facilities

WHEN? WEDNESDAYS, term time only.

Adult singers: 1.30-3.00pm or 7.30-9.00pm,

Youth & Children's Choir (7 years and over): 3.40-4.40pm.

Pre-school children are welcome in the afternoon in the care of their adult with a crèche area available. A warm welcome also to singers experiencing dementia or memory problems together with their friends and carers.

Enquiries via our [website www.grobysings.org](http://www.grobysings.org).

Groby Sings is a Registered Charity no. 1180490

"We have been contacted by someone who has the complete Bible in CDs (the talking Bible) which belonged to his late wife and he would love it to go to a good home (free of charge). If you, or anyone you know, would be interested please get in touch with Sue LB.

Thank you."

Sue



DIARY DATES

Church Meeting: Thursday 28th September at 7.30 pm

Prayers for Ukraine: Thursday October 12th and 26th, 6.30 pm in church

Alpha Course: An Alpha course will be running on Monday evenings from September 18th in our church.

Mental Health Training: Saturday October 14th October, 9.30 am, at Christ Church (see page 15 for more info)

Rock Solid: Every alternate Fridays, 7.30 - 9 pm at our church. For Year 5 - 11 children. Oct 6th, then Nov. 3rd and 17th.

November 2023 issue

The deadline for November's issue of Contact is **SAT 21st October 2023** but happy to accept articles sooner if prepared and ready to go!

Please submit to magazine@grobyurc.com or to Kathy (5 Hawthorn Rise, Groby) Preferred via email.

Print or Hard Copy of Contact?

Contact magazine is published in print and on the church website, grobyurc.com. If you would like to be added or removed from the monthly hyperlink email list, please let Kathy know at the magazine email address magazine@grobyurc.com

If you receive a paper copy and no longer wish to, please let us know through the magazine email address.

**NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU'VE TRAVELLED
IN THE WRONG DIRECTION,
YOU CAN ALWAYS TURN ROUND**



Nicky Gumbal

Author of the Alpha course

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2866 / susanbeverley46@yahoo.co.uk

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORKER: Vacancy.

CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS: Jane Hinds 07530 957022 /
janesnips@hotmail.com

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Our Sunday morning services start at 10 am and are recorded. A link to the recording can be found on our website and Facebook page (see page 2 for details of this.) Our worship includes monthly Holy Communion

The church building has a loop hearing system, wheelchair access, a toilet for the disabled & baby nappy changing facilities.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Mon: Noah's Ark parent & toddler group - 9.30-11.30 (term time)

Thurs: 'Fair Cuppa'* at Groby village Hall-10.30-12 am

Fri: CatCH* parent & toddler group-9.30 - 11 am (term time)

Fri. (alternate Fridays during term time) 7.30 pm Urban Saints.
Games and Grub for children in Years 5 - 11.

Sat: Tasters* Coffee, hot cobs. Kids activities -10-12am

There are also regular Homegroups running throughout the week.
Our Secretarial Contact has more information.

* These activities are run jointly with St Philip & St James as part of 'Churches Together in Groby'.